(b) The Fund has been established through issue of a Regulation, *viz.*, ''Telecommunication Consumers Education and Protection Fund Regulations, 2007'' (6 of 2007) dated 15th June, 2007 in Gazette of India.

(c) Any amount charged from the subscriber in excess of the rates of telecommunication services determined under any regulation or order or direction made under the TRAI Act or amount in excess of the rates announced by the service providers, where the rates have been notified under market forbearance and which could not be refunded to the concerned subscribers and thus lying as unclaimed with the service providers, shall constitute the corpus of the Telecommunication Consumers Education and Protection Fund.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) The Telecommunication Consumers Education and Protection Fund Regulations, 2007 do not provide for Government funding.

Incomplete projects under NLCPR

2490. SHRI MATILAL SARKAR: Will the Minister of DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the projects received from different States of North Eastern Region for being taken up under Non-Lapsable Central Pool of Resources (NLCPR) during 2004-05, 2005-06 and 2006-07;

(b) the names of those projects which have been completed, sanctioned but not completed, retained but not sanctioned, State-wise (with the year proposals); and

(c) in what way Government proceed to expedite the works of the projects which remain incomplete at different stages?

THE MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) Under the Scheme of Non-Lapsable Central Pool of Resources (NLCPR) the State Governments of the North Eastern Region submit prioritized project proposals annually to the Ministry for the Development of the North Eastern Region (MDONER). These lists are available on the website of MDONER *(www.mdoner.gov.in)* under the head of 'NLCPR'. State-wise they can be seen under sub head: ''b. Priority List of Projects''.

(b) These details are also available on the Ministry's website under the head of ''NLCPR''and State-wise sub head: ''d. Retained Projects''.

(c) Almost all the projects sanctioned under NLCPR are implemented by the State Governments concerned. In order to enhance the pace of implementation of these projects by the North-Eastern States, the Ministry is using following mechanism/processes:

(i) Project-wise progress of implementation is reviewed on the basis of Quarterly Progress Reports (QPR).

(ii) Chief Secretaries of the State Governments are required to hold quarterly meetings to review the progress of implementation of ongoing projects under NLCPR.

(iii) States are required to carry out project inspections periodically.

(iv) A nodal officer for each project is made responsible for project implementation and monitoring.

(v) Field inspections are carried out by officers of the Ministry of DONER.

Where the slow implementation of a project causes concern, State Governments are reminded through letters from various levels, including the Minister for the Development of the North-Eastern Region. We have recently introduced monthly reviews through video-conferences with officers of State Governments. In addition, for closer monitoring, the data base of NLCPR projects has been computerized and officers in the Ministry of DONER, as well as officials concerned in the States, have been trained for online data entry as well as retrieval.

Study report conducted by Brazilian company

2491. SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the recent study conducted by Brazilian company saying Indian dams are heating up the globe and that hydro projects are the world's worst methane polluters; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto and the steps proposed to be taken to rectify the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) Some news reports were there based on the research studies carried out in Brazil and same were extended without any Indian experimental data. Scientifically, methane, a greenhouse gas contributing to global warming, is emitted from reservoirs of dams. However, no scientific study, as on date has been brought out pertaining to methane emissions from the reservoirs of Indian dams.

Hydro-electricity projects in Assam

2492. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that an environmental risk assessment study was not done before designing hydro-electricity projects, small and large, in Assam and North East;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) if not, the findings of the study regarding feasibility of the project ecologically and effects on the bio-diversity and brittle environment; and